Controlling inflation, provision of employment opportunities govt's top priorities: Masadik Malik

Minister for Petroleum Division Dr Masadik Masood Malik on Saturday said that controlling inflation and providing employment opportunities to the people were the government's top priorities. Addressing a press conference here, he said on the directives of the prime minister... (Details on Page 8)

T20 World Cup 2024: US envoy hopes Pakistan will have 'an unforgettable tournament'

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Promotion

RAWALPINDI: Helen Mary Roberts first Christian woman officer promoted as Brigadier in Pakistan Army.



Pakistan Army promotes first Christian female officer to brigadier

Helen Mary Roberts has proven Pakistani women can excel in any field, says PM Shehbaz

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a first, Pakistan's army has promoted the first Christian female officer to the rank of brigadier.

She is the first female officer from a minority community to achieve this rank," the news outlet reported while quoting the Inter-Services Public Relations on Saturday.

Brig Helen Mary Roberts is affiliated with the Army Medical Corps and has made history as the first female army officer from a minority to reach such a rank.

She joins the illustrious list of army officers from her community who have served their mother-

land in similar or higher capacities.

Pakistani Christians have made significant contributions to the armed forces, with one of them

being Second Lt Daniel Utarid Shaheed who led his men to the front in the 1971 war. In reaction to the historic devel-

opment, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated Helen Mary Roberts on her promotion.

"Brigadier Roberts, a member

of the Pakistani Christian community, has made history by becoming the first woman from a minority background to achieve this pres-

tigious rank," the Associated Press of Pakistan reported while quoting the prime minister's statement.

He said the entire nation including himself extended felicitation to her. The prime minister praised Brigadier Roberts for her hard work and dedication, saying that she had "proven that Pakistani women could excel in any field and

were second to none." The entire nation was "proud of

Brigadier Roberts and the thousands of hardworking women like her from minority communities" who were serving the country with distinction.

PM Shehbaz added that Brigadier Roberts' commitment to service, humanity, and her dedication to her work would serve as a "beacon of inspiration for the young women of the next gener-

NEPRA determines quarterly tariff adjustment for 3rd quarter: Awais



Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari has said that today National Electric Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) determined quarterly tariff adjustment for third quarter of the current fiscal year which would be applicable in billing months of June, July and August. The adjustment for June would be Rs 1.90 per unit which would further decrease to 93 paisa for July and

Federal minister calls for minority judges in higher judiciary

№ News Desk

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazir Tarar has expressed his aspiration for judges from minority communities to join Pakistan's higher judiciary.

Speaking at the Justice A. R. Cornelius Conference held at a local hotel on Saturday, he emphasized the importance of religious freedom and minority rights in Pakistan. The minority law officers and legal advievent was organized by the Bright Future Society and Implementation Minority Rights Forum Pakistan.

He highlighted that Pakistan's Constitution guarantees complete religious freedom, aligning with Islamic teachings on the rights of minorities. He lamented the decline in religious tolerance post-Afghan war but reiterated Quaid-e-Azam tion's protection of minority rights Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision and advocating for the appointment of a united, tolerant society. He of minority judges to the higher judimentioned ongoing efforts to establish a Minority Rights Commission



praised retired Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jillani for his landmark decisions benefiting minorities, and lauded Justice Cornelius for his legacy of equal justice. Supreme Court Justice Mansoor Ali Shah echoed Tarar's sentiments, noting the Constitu-

Speakers at the conference, includ-Continued on Page 8 | and proposed reserving quotas for ing senior judges and legal experts, Jillani, among others.

ATC orders medical examination of Kashmiri poet

paid tribute to Justice Cornelius and discussed the constitutional protections for minorities. They highlighted Justice Cornelius' impactful career and the 2014 Supreme Court guidelines under Justice Jillani aimed at

safeguarding minority rights. The conference concluded with the distribution of certificates to distinguished guests, attended by prominent figures including Supreme Court Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwar, Justice Ali Baqar Najafi, and retired Justice Tassaduq Hussain *Parliament* determined to safeguard rights of journalists: ŇA Speaker

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that the parliament is determined to spearhead the legislation for protecting reporters and journalists, especially the ones attached to print media.

In a felicitation message to the newly elected members of the Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE), he congratulated Arshad Ahmed Arif and Ijaz-ul-Hag on their successful election as President and Secretary General of CPNE, respectively.

He expressed confidence that the newly elected members will carry out every possible effort in Continued on Page 8

PM commends **Pakistan Navy for** successful antinarcotics operation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday applauded Pakistan Navy for successful operation in thwarting an attempt to smuggle 380 kilograms of narcotics in North Arabia Sea. In a statement, the prime minister appreciated the officers and personnel deputed at PNS Yarmook for foiling an attempt to smuggle 380 kilograms of narcotics.

"The efforts of the Pakistan Navy officials in safeguarding the Pakistan's maritime boundaries and preventing illegal the prime minister added.



activities are commendable,"

FIA summons Gohar, Omar, Hasan over 'antistate social media post'

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency has summoned PTI Chairman Gohar Khan, Secretary General Omar Ayub, and party spokesperson Raoof Hasan next week over the "anti-state social media post" by former prime minister Imran Khan's account earlier this week.

three leaders, the FIA has as Twitter. asked them to appear in person Centre Sub-Inspector Muham-

mad Monib Zafar. "An enquiry has been initiated regarding misuse of verified X Twitter account of Mr. Imran Khan, Founder PTI through which highly obnoxious and inciting content against state institutions is shared which is likely to cause fear or alarm in the public and may induce/provoke anyone to commit an offence against the state or the state institution or public tranquillity," said the

allegation's gist. The case is related to a May 26 post on Khan's account in which he shared a video and urged people to study the Hamoodur Rahman Commission report. The video showed former Bangladesh president Sheikh Mujeebur Rehman.

In reaction, the FIA Cyber Crime Wing launched an investigation into the controversial post sought permis-



sion from the judicial magistrate to interrogate the Adiala Jail inmate for sharing "antistate activities" and "anti-state narratives" on social media In separate notices to the platform X, formerly known

The institution has claimed FIA Cybercrime Reporting the content was allegedly shared from Khan's profile.

Khan is serving out his sentences in the cypher and the iddat cases at the Punjab's jail. On Thursday, he appeared through a video link in the Supreme Court in the National Accountability Bureau law amendment case.

According to the plea, Khan allegedly built a false narrative and spread misinformation against state institutions of Pakistan, including the army, through his X account having more than 20 million

The wing contended that the video was "misleading, intimidating, and amounts to inciting an officer/soldier of armed forces of Pakistan to mutiny."

It alleged that the post was purportedly a mischievous act of subversion within the various ranks of the armed forces of Pakistan and created a rift among the pillars of the state.

KP governor appreciates people for always standing with Pakistan's security force

跨 Bureau report

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi appreciated people's vision on Saturday and termed it exemplary who always stand by and salute the courage and bravery of the

security forces. He expressed these remarks while addressing people at Wagah border crossing. He admired the fascinating scene of love and devotion of the country people here, who completely showed their love to motherland, dedication to the guards of the country's borders, adding our people's vision is exemplary who always salute the courage and bravery of the security forces,

Sector Commander Rangers Brigadier Ashfaq welcomed

the KP governor on his arrival at Wagah border. According to a spokesperson for the Governor's House, Kundi participated in the prestigious ceremony of lowering the flag on the Wagah border. He appreciated the enthusiasm of the Pakistan Rangers and the people participating in the ceremony. At the end of the ceremony, the KP governor was also briefed about border limits, security issues as per international laws.

He also recorded his comments in the visitor's book at the Wagah border and also inspected the museum set there containing the culture of the four provinces of Pakistan, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir. He said that on the Wagah border, one could see Continued on Page 8

of doctors from the Abbas Insti-ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism requested the court to change that his client was being given lawyers. The court accepted the tute of Medical Sciences would the lawver. request for a change of lawyer. conduct the medical examination slow poison.

News Desk

court in Muzaffarabad ordered on Saturday a medical examination of Kashmiri poet Ahmad Farhad on the request filed on the suspicion of slow poisoning. At the hearing, his wife

In the application, Farhad's

and Mahmood Baig should night, but his "condition was not be appointed as her husband's

Lawyer Sardar KD Khan filed wife Urooj Zainab stated that a new application in the court, ATC in Muzaffarabad ordered a senior lawyers Sardar KD Khan stating that he met Farhad last medical examination of Farhad.

good." The application alleged After the lawyer's request, the

of the Kashmiri poet. until June 3.

The case has been adjourned

As per the court's order, a team

Bishop Yousuf stresses interreligious harmony in order to bring about lasting peace

👺 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Chairman of Catholic Commission for Inter-religious and Inter-Church Dialogue of Pakistan, Bishop Yousuf Sohan, visited the historical Sikh Gurdwara Panjah Sahib at Hasan Abdal and met with the Head Granthi, giving a message of inter-religious harmony and said that for lasting peace in the society. People of all religions need to make joint efforts for the establishment. Scholars of all religions living in Pakistan are struggling hard for social and religious harmony, and join in each other's happiness and increase the happiness. This is the teaching that we find in the heavenly holy books. Now



the time has come for us to come out of extremism and come towards pacifism and make our country a place of peace. Rev. Father Daniel Taj Multan Diocese, Rev. Father Shehzad Khokhar Hyderabad Diocese, Rev. Father Azam Siddique Islamabad Diocese, Samuel Clement National Executive Secretary. Kashif Gul Coordinator, Ex-MP Ravi Kumar, Sardar Santok Singh, Sardar Kalvan Singh made the cradle on this occasion., Sardar Babaji Gopal Singh, Sardar Anderjit Singh, Sardar Kalbir Singh, Sardar Gulcharan Singh, Sardar Sarwant Singh, Ismatullah Khan and others participated on this occasion. Christ, Hindus and Sikhs will have to unite so that we all struggle to make our country a cradle of peace.

Group photo

LAHORE: A group photo of Chairman Igbal Garden, Malik Javed Dastgir, Sheikh Khalid Nazir, MD, M. Abdullah, Executive Director, and Chief Commercial Ok Officer, Asghar Waseem, during the Land Star Property Exhibition



Inspector General of Prisons(Jail) KPK Usman Mehsud visited District Jail Mansehra

Nasir Ali Tanoli

MANSEHRA: Inspector General of Prisons (Jail) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Usman Mehsud visited District Jail Mansehra, Superintendent Najam Hussain Abbasi made him inspect various projects in the jail and gave certificates and cash rewards to the officers and officials. Economic Development Inaugurated Prisoners of Mansehra

Inspector General of Prisons Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Usman Mehsud visited the District Jail Mansehra on this occasion the Jail Police gave him a salute, after which Superintendent Jail Najam Hussain Abbasi and his team gave him a warm welcome and Informed about the ongoing development works inside the jail while the IG Prisons Usman Mehsud inaugurated the newly constructed display center and program for intellectual and economic development of prisoners of Mansehra Jail in the district



where Superintendent Jail Najam Hussain Abbasi Deputy Superintendent Rashid Khan Assistant Super-

intendent Usman Khan and other officers briefed him about the various items, after which IG Usman Mehsud made a detailed inspection of all the

barracks and women sections, cook house, hospital, industrial unit and other parts of the jail and met the prisoners. At the same time, IG Usman Mehsud gave certificates of computer, plumbing and electrical to 06 inmates who passed Toyota, while 06 female inmates also received certificates for completing the beautician course.

HDO Project Manager Sadaqat Khan and Muhammad Ahsan participated on this occasion, with the support of which work has been started on Beds Craft Work in Mansehra Jail, in which 20 inmates and prisoners are making models of various types of decorations.. At this point

Manager D. Watson Store Mansehra Mohammad Ijaz also assured full support for the purchase of bulbs.

In the end, IG Usman Mehsud awarded the staff of Mansehra Jail with certificates and cash prizes for their excellent performance. Strict security arrangements were made on

A delegation of the Executive Committee of the High Court Bar Association Multan met with Chief Justice of Pakistan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A delegation of the Executive Committee of the High Court Bar Association Multan, led by President Bar Malik Sajjad Haider Maitla, Advocate Supreme Court, met the Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Qazi Faiz Essa. The delegation included General Secretary Syed Anees Mehdi, Vice President Ali Raza Alvi, Finance. Secretary Qazi Waseem Abbas, Library Secretary Sardar Muhammad Rafiq Dogar and members Executive Muhammad Abdullah Chaudhry, Malik Liaqat Ali Soro, Shamsul Haque Khan, Shahbaz Ali Khan Gurmani,



Khalilur Rehman Mayo, Chaudhry Muhammad Manzoor, Abdul Salim Chaudhry, Nader Sultan Mura-

Chaudhry Dildar Barula and Asia Khan Malizai were participants.

Malik Sajjad Haider Maitla Advocate invited the Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Qazi Faiz Essa to visit the High Court Bar Multan. But the appointment of judges should be ensured and requested that Multan and South Punjab must be represented in the appointment of judges so that people can get justice as soon as possible. She wants to hold a law conference under the chairmanship, so time should be given to participate in it. The Chief Justice of Pakistan

Mr. Justice Qazi Faiz Essa assured the delegation that he would consider their demands sympathetically and would High Court Bar Multan President not disappoint them

People fear cancer because of 'fear of dying': Professor Ijaz Masood

MULTAN: Professor (Rtd) of Cancer Ward Nishtar Hospital Dr. Ahmad $Ijaz\,Masood\,has\,said\,that\,people\,get\,scared\,as\,soon\,as\,they\,hear\,the\,word$ cancer. While diseases like diabetes and blood pressure are also life-threatening which have fatal consequences. 100% is a curable disease, it is only a fear. With timely diagnosis and treatment, cancer can not only be controlled but also eradicated. He expressed these views while speaking as a guest speaker in the meeting held under the chairmanship of Chaudhry Altaf Shahid, president of Rotary Club Midtown Multan. Most of the problem is breast cancer and blood cancer. The reason for the increase of this disease is the lack of awareness among people. We take care of our needs at home but neglect our health.

Awareness is very important. Chaudhry Altaf Shahid, president of the Rotary Club of Midtown, said at the meeting that the increase in the number of cancer patients in South Punjab is a momentary concern. It is believed that they should play their role in the prevention of cancer because women can play a better role due to being the majority in the society. Then the disease can be controlled. Secretary Club Hina Babar, Muhammad Moazzam, Chaudhry Shehbaz Chatta, Salim Nasir, Ehtishamul Haque, Muhammad Umar, Shahid Saeed, Faheem Sattar, Professor Azam Hussain, Kashif Khalil, Amjad Malik, Waqas were present in the meeting. Hafeez, Rao Asif Akhlaq, Major R. Musrat Baig, Tariq Sarwar, Ayesha Ghazi, Farah Rehman, Sana Khan, Dr. Ayesha Abdullah and others participated.

A well-known orthopedic surgeon from the UK free examination and treatment to more than 90 patients



Majid Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A Free Orthopedic Camp was organized at Lakhmat Anwar Nazir Hospital in which Dr. Shahid Ayub, a well-known orthopedic surgeon from the UK, offered free examination and treatment to more than 90 patients. The camp was inaugurated by Chief Executive Khayaban Manzoor Saifur Rahman Hashmi on this occasion, Chairman Hospital Management Committee Dr. Shafqat Javed, Vice Chair Person Madam Maimona Rohi, Finance Director Anjum Iqbal Butt, Secretary Dr. Abdul Jabbar Abbasi, renowned Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Shahid Ayub, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal and Dr. Muhammad Rafiq Medical Superintendent were also present. Speaking on the occasion, the guests appreciated the selfless services of Al-Khidmat Foundation for the suffering humanity in the field of health. Considered a blessing. It should be remembered that Al-Khidmat Anwar Nazir Hospital is providing quality health facilities in the Nawa area of Faisalabad and is also providing free treatment to deserving patients through free campuses.

Traffic chief seeks end of road encroachments in Faisalabad



👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Traffic flow should be further improved by eliminating road encroachments across the city. Every traffic circle and sector should be ideal. These views were expressed by Chief Traffic Officer Magsood Ahmed Lone while presiding over a meeting held regarding the elimination of traffic encroachments at traffic headquarters. DSP Traffic Headquarters Khalid Aleem, DSP Traffic City Saad Saud Safdar Wahla, DSP Civil Line Muhammad Nawaz Kamuka, DSP Traffic People's Colony Malik Javed and sector in-charges were present on this occasion. The Chief Traffic Officer further said that in this regard, action should be taken by staying in constant contact with the concerned department. According to the mission of Additional IG Traffic Punjab Mirza Faran Baig and City Police Officer DIG Kamran Adil, efforts are being made for the best traffic flow on the roads. The CTO also requested the citizens to make adherence to traffic rules their motto.

Two drugs peddlers sentenced by courts in Attock

👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: Two drug peddlers were sentenced to different terms by different courts in Attock on Saturday, Police spokesman said. In the first case, Farkhanda Arshad special court for the Control of Narcotic Substances (CNS) in Attock sentenced to nine years' imprisonment besides imposing fine over a drugs peddler identified as Hunar Muhammad-who was arrested by Police red handed while selling hashish in Sheenbagh area 2023 by Attock Saddar Police. A case was registered against the suspect under section 9-C CNSA, 1997. In the light of the statements of the witnesses, the convict pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 9 years of imprisonment besides imposing a fine of Rs 80 thousands over him. Moreover, a special court for the Control of Narcotic Substances (CNS) in Attock sentenced to 9 years' imprisonment besides imposing fine over a drugs peddler who was arrested by Police with drugs at his den in the limits of Rangoo Police in December 2023. The convict Shehryar Ali Khan- a native of Formuli arrested under section 9-C CNSA, 1997 after recovery of hashish from his possession. The judge of the special CNS court Nadeem Abbas Saqi pronounced the judgment after recording statements of witnesses and final arguments from both sides. In the light of the statements of the witnesses, the convict pleaded guilty and was sentenced to nine years of imprisonment besides imposing a fine of Rs 80 thousand over him.

Entire leadership of PTI is patriotic and loves Pakistan Army: Qazi Ahmad

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan has said that the entire leadership of PTI is patriotic and loves Pakistan Army, those who chant Pakistan Army Zindabad are the real Pakistanis. Chairman Imran Khan and his workers were, are and always will be patriots, MPA Qazi Ahmad Akbar's statement of submitting bills by selling straw on the assembly floor is being presented out of context, all Despite sufferings and atrocities, he did not lose heart and did not write anything against anyone, he expressed these views in a crowded press conference. in response to various questions, Imran Khan said that Qazi Ahmed Akbar left no stone unturned in the service of the people, that is the reason why the people of PP-1 Constituency voted for him in the election.





Namaz Timings

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police

Stations	
Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENOUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43	
CDA	9208301-04	
Met Office	9250360-6	
RDA	5555864	
TMA	5770886	
Cantonment Board	9270151-3	
Islamabad Metropolitan		
Corporation	9209224	
Potohar Town	9209224	
Rawal Town	5773343	

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,9203883 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316

U.N. concerned over recent attacks on girls? schools in KP. Balochistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations in Pakistan is deeply concerned by the recent string of attacks against girls' schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts (KPM) and Balochistan. In just one month, four girls' schools have been destroyed. The United Nations in Pakistan joins Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in calling for the protection of girls' right to education. We welcome the Prime Minister's commitment to bring the culprits to justice, repair and rebuild the damaged schools, and support Pakistan's daughters in realizing their right to quality education.

At a time when the Prime Minister has declared an education emergency, pledging to enroll 26 million out-of-school children, ensuring the safety and security of schools is paramount, especially in remote and vulnerable areas. Inclusive education, free from fear and intimidation, is the foundation of a strong and prosperous Pakistan. The United Nations in Pakistan stands ready to support the Government in the rehabilitation and re-opening of these schools as soon as possible.

ICCI seminar on 'Education emergency and our responsibilities'

Speakers commend PM Shehbaz for taking initiative

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Member National Assembly Mohammad Hanif Abbasi while addressing a seminar entitled 'Education Emergency and our Responsibilities' organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has said that education plays an important role in the development of individuals as well as of society at large and no development is possible without skilled and trained human resources. He added that Character building is one of the main traits of education, so the virtues like honesty, truthfulness, impartiality and empathy should be inculcated among the students through the education process.

He said that sitting Prime Minister Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif is the first ever Prime Minister who is taking keen interest in enhancing the literacy level and in induction of out of school ministry as well as the NGOs

children to make them valuable

asset of the country. President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari while paying glowing tributes to Prime Minister Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif for taking initiative for out of school children to make them beneficial individuals instead of becoming burden on the society.

He demanded that the Government must allow the commencement of evening classes in mosques, chamber houses, and community halls for the children whose parents are unable to bear the expenses of education, adding that in this way we can usher a revolution in the society by enhancing literacy rate as well as skill development.

He added that doors of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry are open for this noble cause and that it will extend every possible support to the education

Secretary General United Business Group said Zafar Bakhtawari said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is a visionary leader who has not only enforced the education emergency but has also given a framework of 4 years to achieve the target. He said that Prime Minister is also determined to enhance the education budget from 0.5% to 5% of the total layout which will definitely make a difference in enhancing the literacy level in the country.

Highlighting the significance of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's initiative Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, Vice Chancellor National Skills University, Islamabad said that his University is giving opportunity to everybody to enter and equip himself with necessary skills to earn livelihood in respectable manners.

Dr. Syeda Zia Batool, Chairperson, Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority IT skills for the economic better-

affirmed that PIERA is whole heartedly working for the cause and that it is already registering non-formal schools for the purpose to achieve the goal.

Senator® Mian Atiq-ur-Rehman commended ICCI for organizing the seminar on this important national issue by saying that each and every individual has to enter the digital world by equipping himself with

ment of the country.

Bilal Aziz, Programme Specialist(Youth and Audit Literacy) JICA presented facts and figures about out of school children throughout Pakistan by saying that most of the children belonging to Islamabad have already been enrolled and the rest will be enrolled by the end of 2025.

Asma Malik, CEO Lift Foundation described that how out of school children can be enrolled Arooj Malik.

跨 🛮 Abdul Majeed Tahir

Azad Kashmir opposition demands end to Indian

LONDON/MUZAFFARABAD: Leader of Opposition Legislative Assem-

bly of Azad Kashmir and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Central Joint Secretary Khawaja Farooq Ahmed has said that before the protest of Tehreek-e-

Insaf Jammu and Kashmir Awami Action Committee, the attention of the Azad Kashmir government should be resolved. Therefore, she kept

urging inside and outside the assembly not to consider this movement as

weak and to take it seriously, but the government of Azad Kashmir showed irresponsibility, did not understand the situation and gave provocative

statements, due to which precious lives were lost and dozens of people were injured. Opposition leader Khawaja Farooq Ahmad expressed these views while addressing the reception given in his honor by former

councilor Tahir Aziz Silharia in Woking London. Well-known business-

men Sabir Hussain, Shahid Kayani, Shahzad Ahmed Mir, Mir Israr were present in the reception. Pakistani and Kashmiri community including

Aziz, Basharat Salharia, Aamir Kayani, Zubair Awan participated in large numbers, should be made peaceful so that India does not get an opportu-

nity to take advantage of our situation. He kept highlighting the issue and

demanded special financial assistance for the martyrs and the injured, but no special responsibility was shown on the part of the government

Minister says Azad Kashmir to be provided funds in next

incursions on Kashmir

in informal schools to impart them education and latest skills to make them productive indi-

Faculty members and students from different Universities, civil society members, stakeholders and ICCI executive members attended the seminar in large number including convener ICCI Committee on HEC Adnan Mukhtar, Ms. Uzma Mukhtar and

Golden flower

ISLAMABAD: A view of amaltas flowers flourishing and blooming on roadside trees in the Federal

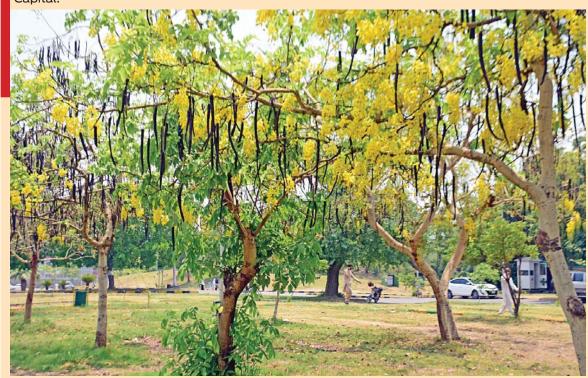


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Pakistan academia is leading the process of strengthening food system in Pakistan

👺 Bureau Report

MULTAN: The National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC), Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Pakistan are partnering to introduce new courses on "Food System Transformation" in Pakistani universities. This initiative aligns with the Government of Pakistan's commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (Particularly SDG-1, 2, 3, 5, 12 & 13) and emphasizes the importance of education in ensuring food security for vulnerable populations.

A National Course Design

form. The workshop successfully developed the curricu- mentioned the recommendalum content for undergraduate and postgraduate students

Mr. Saqib Ali Ateel, Secretary of Agriculture for South Punjab, commended the important in light of the fact incorporation of climate that we are just a few months change and environmen- away from the start of the Fall tal concerns into the course 2024 semester and our goal content. He emphasized the is to incorporate all of these importance of blockchain courses in Fall 2024 semes-

Hassan, Chairperson NAEAC tion of the council, he appreciated the support of course by integrating principles of design experts across the food systems transformation. country for their consensus on the course content and stated that this workshop is and Artificial Intelligence in ter of the Pakistani universi-

transformation. He critically analysed the challenges of food security at global and national levels, indicating the importance of including education system in transforming food

systems in Pakistan. The National Course Design Workshop successfully finalized the curriculum modules, aligning them with national priorities and international standards by integrating food systems transformation principles into higher education.

Workshop was held, where modern food systems and ties as a part of the approved stakeholders and experts agriculture, stating that their curriculum. Mr. Faiz Rasool, Head of discussed curriculum devel- inclusion in the curriculum opment on "Food System will enable the training of Policy and Advocacy, GAIN, provided a brief snapshot future generations to meet Transformation & adopting of the global and national the Food Systems Dashboard" evolving needs. Earlier, Dr. Fayyaz ul as a food systems data platperspectives on food system

Abdul Majeed Tahir

financial year

MUZAFFARABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and Sifran Engineer Amir Muqam has said that Azad Kashmir will be provided with required funds in the next financial year. Under the Federal Public Sector Development Program, timely completion of all ongoing projects in Azad Kashmir should be ensured so that their fruits can reach the common man. In this regard, if there is any problem in the completion of a project, share its details with the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs so that a solution can be found. Mansehra Muzaffarabad Expressway is an important project whose usefulness cannot be denied. Timely work on this project will be started so that people can get the best travel facilities. He expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of a briefing on PSDP's plans related to Azad Kashmir in the capital Muzaffarabad here on Friday. Azad Kashmir Secretary Planning and Development Amir Latif Awan briefed the Federal Minister about the ongoing development process in Azad Kashmir, the ongoing projects under the PSDP and the annual development program of Azad Kashmir, the development budget and the development funds required for the next financial year.

Women's marital rights highlighted at legal-aid camp

👺 Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

HYDERABAD: A one-day seminar titled Legal-Aid Camp was held on Saturday, organized by the Sindh Human Rights Commission and MUSAWI, a Lahore-based social organization. The event focused on raising awareness about women's marital rights, with speakers expressing concern over the lack of knowledge among women and the general public regarding marriage and divorce laws in Pakistan.

Barrister Khadija Bukhari, Advocate Mahjabeen Zulfiqar, and Muhammad Rehan addressed the importance of Muslim Marriage Laws and marriage laws in Pakistan, highlighting the significance of carefully reviewing the Nikkahnama before signing it. Barrister Bukhari emphasized that women should be aware of their rights, including the ability to decide their own dowry amount (Haq Mahar) without hesitation. She urged women to be vigilant in seeking their marital rights, noting that while the law has become more flexible for women, many in deprived areas remain unaware of their rights.

Pakistan to support Kashmiris' right to selfdetermination: Amir Maqam

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and Sifran Engineer Amir Maqam has said that the love of Kashmir is in the heart of every Pakistani, the decision of Kashmir should be according to the will of Kashmiris, if Kashmir is not safe then Pakistan is not safe, our leader Mian. Nawaz Sharif and the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif always talked about Kashmir like this, regretting the times of protest in Azad Kashmir, the loss of Kashmir is not the loss of one person but the loss of the whole of Pakistan. Pakistan will continue to support the Kashmiri people in granting their fundamental right, the right to self-determination, as per the resolutions of the United



Kashmir is the most important issue in the priorities of Pakistan. Pakistan has always supported the right to self-determination of Kashmiris at various international forums including the United Nations and will always contin-

The hard work of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif is paying off. The projects start-Nations Security Council. The issue of ed by the Quaid Nawaz Sharif govern-

ment after 2013 did not continue after the end of the PML-N government. Whenever there is a problem, the khaki uniform is at the forefront. Worked, the sacrifices of Pakistan Army are unforgettable, those who spread chaos on social media will come forward, there was a contradiction in the words and deeds of PT Aati government, the leader is the one who is sincere to the nation. Next financial year for the development

Magam was addressing a press conference at a private hotel in Muzaffarabad. PML-N Azad Kashmir President Shah Ghulam Qadir and Azad Kashmir Government Information Secretary Ansari Yaqub Khan were also with him. The Minister of Kashmir Affairs said that he is grateful to all the stakeholders including the political leadership for the establishment of peace in Azad Kashmir. have gone The committee is working with regard to water resources charges, whoever $\,$

ate the Kashmiris.

Minister of Kashmir Affairs and

becomes a part of Azad Kashmir will be given. He said that he will appreci-

Sunday, June 2, 2024

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Over 62,000 Pakistani pilgrims arrive in Saudi Arabia

he Pakistan Hajj Mission (PHM) has welcomed 62,148 pilgrims in Madinah and Makkah under both government and private schemes since the start of the monthlong pre-Hajj flight operation on May 9, the Ministry of Religious Affairs reported on Saturday.

"So far, 46,648 pilgrims have arrived via 185 flights under the government scheme, while 15,500 have arrived under the private scheme," said Muhammad Umer Butt, a spokesman for the Ministry of Religious Affairs. An additional 22,090 Pakistani pilgrims are expected to arrive in Makkah over the next nine days, he added. This year, the PHM will host over 70,105 pilgrims under the government

scheme and more than 80,000 under the private scheme. With the cooperation of Saudi authorities, around Paki-



stani pilgrims have visited Riaz Al-Jannah in Madinah. The PHM is utilizing mobile apps, two toll-free helplines, and four WhatsApp numbers to address pilgrims' complaints. Additionally, the spokesman said two central hospitals and a dozen dispensaries in the Haram are providing medical facilities to pilgrims, with 322 doctors and medical staff on duty. The PHM's main hospitals are equipped with modern facilities, including ambulances, laboratories, X-ray machines, ultrasound machines, ECG machines, minor operating theatres and separate wards for men and women. A total of 511 Hajj Moavineen, including Pakistani civilians and uniformed personnel, are working to provide pilgrims with travel, accommodation, and food facilities. The Ministry of Religious Affairs has 152 officers and supporting staff working in various departments, including the control room, Madinah and Jeddah airports, the lost and found department, the Madinah departure cell, the monitoring cell, and the accounts and administration departments. In the past 23 days, 122 pilgrims have been reunited with their families, and 770 dislocated bags and purses, as well as 169 wheelchairs, have been returned to their owners. The Ministry has resolved 570 food-related complaints, 1,450 accommodation complaints, and 388 transportation complaints during this period. The Haram Guides, deployed at the entrance points of the Haram e Makki, have provided guidance to pilgrims 24,639 times in reaching their destinations.

Donald Trump's Indictment: What Next?

Trump has been charged with 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in the first degree. These charges stem from an investigation into hush-money payments made to adultfilm actress Stormy Daniels to cover up an alleged affair before the 2016 election. The charges, brought by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, allege that Trump, along with others, orchestrated a scheme to influence the election by suppressing negative information about him, thus violating election laws. Under New York state law, falsifying business records with the intent to defraud or conceal another crime is a felony. Trump has pleaded not guilty to all charges and has called them politically motivated..

The guilty verdict against Donald Trump has significant implications for his potential presidential run in the upcoming elections. Legally, a felony conviction does not automatically disqualify a candidate from running for or being elected as president, as the U.S. Constitution does not list a criminal conviction as a disqualifying factor. Therefore, despite the charges and any subsequent convictions, Trump can still contest the elections. However, the charges and ongoing legal battles may influence voter perceptions, divert campaign resources, and attract intense public and media scrutiny, potentially impacting his campaign's

There have been numerous claims that the verdict against Donald Trump is biased, with critics arguing that the jury was selected to include individuals predisposed against him. Concerns have been raised about the impartiality of the jurors, suggesting that the selection process was manipulated to ensure an anti-Trump outcome.

Additionally, Trump's supporters have accused the presiding judge, Juan

ormer President Donald Merchan, of bias. They claim that his rulings were unfairly prejudicial against Trump, indicating a judicial partiality. Judge Merchan, known for his tough but fair approach, has faced scrutiny in this high-profile case where the stakes are particularly high. Allegations of judicial bias are common in politically charged cases, but there has been no substantiated evidence provided to support these claims against Judge Merchan specifically.

> The most prominent claim is that the Biden administration is using the legal system to undermine Trump's credibility ahead of the 2024 election. Critics argue that the timing and nature of the charges are politically motivated, suggesting a coordinated effort to discred-

it Trump and prevent him from running for office again. Prominent Trump supporters, including his legal team and political allies like Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene and Senator Lindsey Graham, have publicly denounced the charges

as part of a broader campaign to silence Trump. While the investigation was initiated by the Manhattan District Attorney's office, which operates independently of the federal government, the perception of political motivation remains strong among Trump's supporters.

The guilty verdict against Donald Trump carries significant implications for his future. Legally, it could result in penalties such as fines, probation, or imprisonment if the conviction is upheld. Politically, it may harm his reputation and influence, complicating any potential 2024 presidential run. Personally, the ongoing legal battles and public scrutiny will take a considerable financial and emotional toll.

Trump has several forums available for appealing the verdict. Initially, his

legal team can file post-trial motions in hinging on the robustness of his legal the trial court that delivered the verdict, requesting a new trial or to set aside the verdict based on procedural errors or new evidence. If these motions are unsuccessful, he can appeal to the intermediate appellate court, which in New York is the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

If the Appellate Division upholds the conviction, Trump can further appeal to the New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, which has the discretionary power to select cases of significant legal or public interest. In certain circumstances, if there are claims of constitutional violations or issues of federal law, Trump could take his case to federal courts. potentially leading to the U.S. Supreme

Court, although this requires substantial legal grounds.

The success Trump's appeals will depend on several factors, including the strength of his legal arguments. Demonstrating significant legal errors during the trial or

presenting new evidence that materially impacts the verdict could improve his chances. Historically, appeals have seen varying degrees of success based on these grounds. For example, in *United States v. Skilling* (2010), the U.S. Supreme Court narrowed the scope of the honest services fraud statute, leading to a resentencing for former Enron CEO Jeffrey Skilling.

While appellate courts are generally deferential to the trial court's findings of fact, they thoroughly review alleged legal errors. High-profile cases attract significant public and media attention, which can indirectly influence the legal environment. Trump's case will likely follow this pattern, impacting the procedural aspects of the appeal process. Overall, Trump's path forward involves leveraging Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former the appellate mechanisms, with success

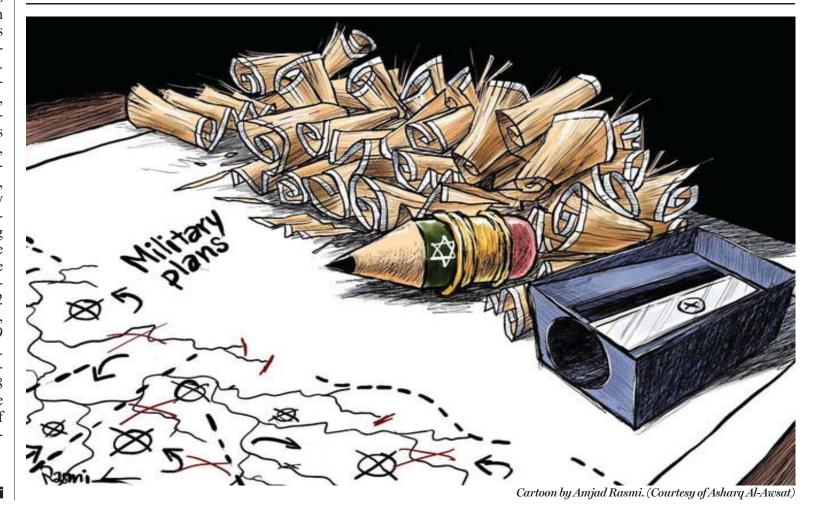
arguments and the interpretations of the appellate courts.

If Trump is elected president and later declared guilty by the final federal court, several complex constitutional questions would arise. One major issue would be presidential immunity. The U.S. Department of Justice has maintained that a sitting president cannot be indicted or prosecuted, based on concerns about the separation of powers and the executive branch's functionality. This stance was notably referenced during the investigations into Presidents Nixon and Clinton. However, this opinion is not legally binding and could be challenged.

Another potential consequence of a final guilty verdict could be impeachment. If Trump were convicted of serious crimes, Congress could pursue impeachment and removal from office, which is the constitutional mechanism for addressing presidential misconduct. The process and outcome would depend on the political climate and the composition of Congress at the time. Historical precedents, such as the impeachments of Nixon (who resigned before he could be impeached) and Clinton, provide some context but no direct parallels, as no president has been convicted of a crime while

Ultimately, any legal battles over presidential immunity or the ability to prosecute a sitting president could reach the U.S. Supreme Court, which would have the final say on these unprecedented issues. While Trump can legally run for and serve as president despite his legal troubles, the implications of a final guilty verdict would introduce significant constitutional complexities and potential political turmoil.

Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the



AJK, Protest and Rangers - III

overnment representatives firing upon them, causing injuries. Despite engaged in negotiations with protest march leaders in Rawalakot, ultimately agreeing to all demands and issuing an official notification. It was decided that the long march would not progress beyond Kohala. In anticipation of potential emergencies and security concerns, the AJK government regularly calls upon this scenario, the AJK government made a request for 2,000 Ranger troops to serve

as a secondary security line for vital state symbols such as the Parliament building, Judicial Complex, and government offices. As per the negotiated agreement, the AJK government displayed restraint by maintaining 300-400 Ranger troops on standby instead of deploying them, hoping that the Awami Action Committee would adhere to the agree-

prevent anarchist elements from infiltrating the march, resulting in adverse consequences. When these elements breached the agreement by advancing beyond Kohala, Rangers were mobilized. To avoid direct confrontation, the AJK government redirected the Rangers, ensuring an unobstructed route from Kohala to Muzaffarabad for the long march. However, the anarchist elements assaulted the Rangers by pelting stones, setting fire to two Ranger vehicles, and The breach of the agreement and subse-

being under attack, the Rangers exercised restraint, resorting only to gas shells and rubber bullets, refraining from live ammunition to prevent fatalities. It's evident that the escalation was incited by these anarchist elements, not the Rangers. Three civilians lost their lives due to the firing by these elements, not the Rangers. The deployment of Rangers was primarily to safeguard Civil Armed Forces (FC & Rangers). In government structures and state symbols, yet they became targets of these elements bent on disrupting AJK's tranquility. The

responsibility for the escalation lies with the leadership of the Awami Action Committee, who permitted these elements to violate the agreement and instigate violence. While government and law enforcement agencies diligently **Abdul Basit Alvi** fulfilled their duties and endeavored to prevent

ment. Regrettably, the committee failed to violence at a higher level, the management of protests failed to ensure their peaceful conduct and remove violent elements from their midst.

The people of Pakistan and AJK strongly condemn the killing of a police sub-inspector in Mirpur Division, the attack on Ranger vehicles, and the arson. Notably, these vehicles were set ablaze near Barar Kot, not in Muzaffarabad, indicating that the attacks were not a direct response to Ranger actions.

quent violence were orchestrated by anarchist elements within the Awami Action Committee. The people of AJK are aware of these malevolent intentions and reject the false propaganda. They value peace and stability and distance themselves from these disruptive elements. The populace insists on a comprehensive inquiry into the incident and the imposition of strict legal measures against the anarchist elements who attempted to disrupt AJK's peaceful environment. This same group of anarchists and their associates are disseminating misinformation and fostering hatred against the State, country, and Armed Forces on social media. These anti-state factions aim to sow discord within the State, and the people of AJK vehemently denounce their reprehen-

Now that the Awami Action Committee's demands have been met and the agreement is being implemented, we're witnessing a noticeable decrease in commodity prices. Therefore, the intermittent threats of further protests from the Awami Action Committee lack moral justification. These individuals seem intent on jeopardizing the region's tourism, employment opportunities, and overall peace for their own gain. It's crucial to recognize that the disruptive elements within the Awami Action Committee don't reflect the sentiments of the majority of Azad Kashmir's population. The people of Azad Kashmir highly value peace, Pakistan, the Pakistan Army, and the state. They vehemently oppose any actions that undermine these foundational aspects of society.

Loss of a Visionary Leader Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi's Unwavering Commitment to Peace

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

ne of the key principles of mediation is the requirement for the mediator to remain neutral and unbiased throughout the process. Means that a like Raisi must not take sides, show favoritism or have any conceived notions about the parties or the issues hand. By adopting an impartial stance, Raisi can create a safe space for open and honest communication between parties, allowing expressing their perspectives, concerns, and interests without fear of judgment bias. A mediator like Raisi effectively facilitate the negotiation process help the parties explore possible solutions to their dispute.

Raisi can focus on the facts, listen attentively to the parties' concerns, and help them identify common ground and potential areas of compromise. Furthermore, remaining impartial and objective as a mediator demonstrates professionalism and integrity, which are essential qualities for building trust and credibility with the parties involved. When the parties perceive Raisi as fair and unbiased, they are more likely to engage fully in the mediation process, cooperate with each other, and work towards a collaborative and mutually beneficial outcome. This can ultimately lead to a more successful resolution of the dispute and a stronger sense of satisfaction and empowerment for the parties involved.

Raisi's work as a mediator requires a high level of skill, professionalism, and integrity, particularly when faced with strong emotions and conflicting interests from the parties involved. By remaining impartial and objective throughout the negotiation process, Raisi can create a conducive environment for open communication and construcive dialogue.

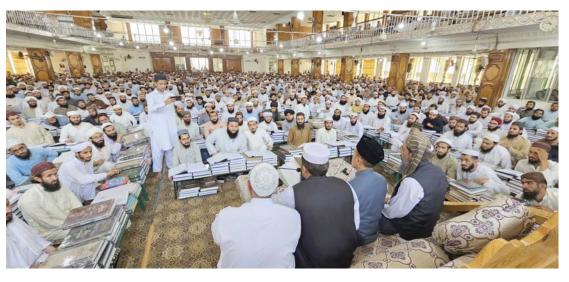
He had a deep sense of empathy for others, and he always sought to help those in need, whether through his words, his actions, or his resources. He was a beacon of hope and inspiration to many, and his kindness and generosity touched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him. Ebrahim Raisi was a visionary leader, who always had a clear sense of purpose and direction.

He was a man of great vision, who saw the potential for positive change in the world and worked tirelessly to make that vision a reality. He was a great leader, who inspired others to follow his example and work towards a better future for all. Ebrahim Raisi legacy is one of courage, compassion, and commitment. He was a true hero, whose life and work continue to inspire and influence people all over the world. He was a true leader. whose courage, compassion, and commitment to justice and equality will always serve as a guiding light for all who strive to make the world a better place.

> Writer is Postdoctoral Fellow in International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan

Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires visit Jamia Dar-Uloom Haqqania





Spokesman Report

AKORA KHATTAK, KP, 1: The Indo-Rahmat Hindiarta visited Jamia Dar-ul-Uloom Haqqania to meet Vice Chancellor Maulana Rashid-ul-Haq Sami along with the Haqqanian of the visit was mainly to share Indonesia's best experience in managing pluralism to the Jamia.

Opening the session, Maulana

order are part of the life in Indonesia. The Indonesian people are friendly nesian Chargé D'Affaires (CDA), Mr. and having mutual respect," he said as Maulana Rashid-ul-Haq previously in November 2023 was part of the Pakistani Ulama and Muslim Scholar Delegation to Indonesia, which was academics and students. The purpose collaboratively held by the Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad and the International Research Council for Religious Affairs (IRCRA).

In his turn, the CDA addressed Rashid-ul-Haq accompanied by his
Indonesia is currently the largest brother Maulana Hamid-ul-Haq Muslim country in the word in spite Haqqani, highlighted i.a. Indonesia of miles away from the birthplace of

'aalamiin. "The cleanliness and public ing from Allah. "Indonesia is made up of 17 thousand islands where 280 million population are living, which 87 percent of them are Muslims while the rest are Catholic, Protestant, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism," he spoke to the Haqqanian students in Arabic.

"For sure, managing pluralism is challenging. But Indonesia has continuously maintained the efforts for it through the implementation of Pancasila, as a result of the consensus by the founding fathers and mothers of Indonesia. Indeed, Indonesia does not explicitly declare as an as an exemplary of Islam rahmatan lil Islam in Mecca, and it is such a bless- Islamic country. However, the first and civilized humanity, Indonesian

principle of Pancasila is Belief in the One Almighty God," continued and informed that the visit coincided with 1 June as the Pancasila Day.

Pancasila was first presented to the public in the speech of first Indonesian President Sukarno on 1 June 1945 during the preparation for Indonesia's Independence. The birth of Pancasila reflected a profound commitment to forging a cohesive national identity from the diverse tapestry of Indonesian society. Sukarno articulated Pancasila as a guiding light, encompassing the principles of belief in One Almighty God, just

unity, democracy guided by the inner wisdom in the unanimity arising out of deliberations amongst representatives, and social justice for all Indo-

from the teacher, the CDA confirmed that Pakistan can reach stronger bond among its different cultural and religious backgrounds, as long as the fraternity as "One Pakistan" is always embedded and well maintained. While the second question from the student on some view that Indonesia considers all religions as one, the CDA denied the view confirming that Indonesia recognizes the respect of Haqqania.

At the end of the session, the CDA handed over the plaque of Pancasila as the sign of understanding between the Embassy of the Republic of Indo-Responded to the first question nesia and the Jamia of Dar-ul-Uloom Haqqania, while the Jamia gave to the Embassy several books written by the late Maulana Sami-ul-Haq and his son, Maulana Rashid-ul-Haq.

During the visit, the CDA and Third Secretary Mr. Axelsyah Miraza were escorted in tours to library, mosque, classes, and other Jamia's facilities, as well as the graveyard of the founders of Jamia Dar-ul-Uloom

Over 200 multinationals participate in expo promoting opening-up of central China

CHANGSHA: Over 200 multinationals are participating in the 13th Central China Investment and Trade Exposition (Expo Central China 2024), which is being held to facilitate trade and investment in the country's central

This year's expo is in Changsha, the capital of central China's Hunan Province, and it has attracted the participation of over 1,000 businesses from 32 countries and regions, according to organizers.

"Opening-up and innovation for the rise of central China" is the theme of the 2024 event, which has an exhibition area of approximately 40,000 square meters. It features a variety of are

of the six provinces of Shanxi, Henan, nated regional development.



covering fields such as digital finance, Anhui, Hubei, Hunan and Jiangxi. The the low-altitude economy and biomed- country has highlighted the need to accelerate the rise of its central region China's central region is comprised as part of its efforts to promote coordi-

Expo Central China 2024 kicked ing-up. off on May 31 and will run until June 2, featuring four major activities and inked at the 12th Expo Central China, more than 20 thematic activities and with 25 of those projects involving

uled a roundtable for multinationals in attendance, as well as a matchmaking event for multinationals and Hunan's government departments, economic development and high-tech zones

China's central region, known for its agriculture, energy and equipment manufacturing industries, is accelerating its construction of a modern industrial system. It is also coordinating its transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, nurturing and developing emerging industries, and planning for future industrial development.

Since its launch in 2006, Expo Central China has played an important role in promoting the coordinated development of the regional economy and expanding the region's open

A total of 433 project deals were site visits. Organizers have also sched- foreign investment, data shows.

APHC condemns deteriorating human rights situation in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has strongly denounced the alarming deterioration of human rights in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) especially since Narendra Modi-led Indian government scrapped the territory's special status in

The APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement in Srinagar said that the occupation troops have martyred 875 Kashmiris, injured over 2,400, and arrested approximately 24,015 since August 5, 2019. In the just concluding month of May, eight Kashmiris, including three in fake encounters or custody, were martyred, 703 youth were arrested, and four were injured, he added.

He criticized the Indian government's actions aimed at suppressing the freedom of expression and perpetuating a culture of fear through draconian measures in the occupied territory. With nearly one million troops deployed, IIOJK has become one of the most militarized zones globally, the spokesman said.

$NCHD\, concludes\, training$ for 2121 Resource Persons in six clusters

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark achievement, 2,121 Resource Persons, including Master Trainers, successfully completed the Roshan Pakistan Literacy Drive's training program, spearheaded by the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) in collaboration with the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE). These dedicated individuals, comprising 2121 Resource Persons from Islamabad, will further train approximately 67,000 students as literacy teachers.

The training program, conducted in six clusters across three phases, equipped the Resource Persons with innovative solutions and a condensed curriculum focused on practical teaching techniques, community engagement, and fostering a love for learning. Led by the Director Literacy Mr. Syed Ali Akbar, the lead trainer, and supported by Mr. Habibullah Khan, Director Education,, and Mr. Tahir Zubair, Deputy Director of Literacy. They were assisted by teams of expert Mr. Hakim Ali Deputy Director Literacy Punjab Rafaqat Ali and KP Mr. Shams ur Rehman, the training sessions aimed to empower educators and enhance literacy efforts

The Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (FEPT), Mr. Mohinudyn Wani, and the Director General of the NCHD, Mirza Nasir ud Din Mashhood Ahmad, personally visited educational institutions to oversee the culmination of the training program. They commended the Resource Persons for their dedication and emphasized the importance of their role in making Pakistan a literate nation.

Ms. Farhat Jabeen, Director Academics at FDE, also graced the occasion with her presence, visiting the Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) F-7/4. She praised the NCHD's efforts, Praise the NCHD commitment to literacy, and encouraged the Resource Persons to remain committed to their mission. Her presence served as a testament to the government's resolve to support education and literacy initiatives.

Protests for subsidy wouldn't have escalated if timely decisions were taken, AJK PM

👺 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Traders' protest against high wheat prices and electricity tariffs in Azad Jammu and Kashmir would not have escalated if the relief package had been timely announced, region's prime minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq has said. "Our nature is that we don't take

timely decisions," he said in an interview with Aaj Exclusive aired on Satur-

The Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC)'s protest march earlier this month brought the region to a standstill for several days. Clashes were reported amid a wheel-jam and shut-

ter-down strike across the territory. Protesters called off the march a day after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved a grant of Rs23 billion to help



included subsidies on flour and elec-

meet most of their demands, which over 100 injured in violent clashes,

According to the AJK prime minis-At least four people were killed and ter, the traders' movement result-

according to officials.

ed from years of deprivation. He mentioned the submerged homes of many people after the construction and raising of the Mangla Dam in the past to substantiate his claim. He added that the 160-metre span of a pull connecting Ritua to Islamgarh was not completed over the years

"Maybe it was not the PM's prerogative as all such commitments at the raising of Mangla Dam were given by WAPDA [Water & Power Development Authority and the Government of Pakistan," he said.

Chaudhry was of the view that politicians were facing difficulties because "some people" decided to safeguard their power instead of safeguarding the people's rights.

You decide to safeguard your rule for five years, but then you leave people to deprivation for 50 years."

Wife of Vietnamese ambassador in Islamabad found after missing for four hours

Spokesmen Report

ISLAMABAD: Wife of Vietnam's ambassador to Pakistan, Nguyen Tien Phong, was found four hours after going missing in the Pakistani federal capital of Islamabad on Saturday, Islamabad Police said.

"Within four hours, Islamabad police traced the wife of the Vietnamese ambassador," the federal capital police said in a post on X. Seven teams were working on it with the help of safe city cameras and cellular technology?

The woman was sent home along with her husband, they added.

The ambassador's wife was reported missing to police in a phone call to Helpline 15, sources



within the police told A.

She had reportedly left their home in the morning to go to a beauty parlour, but could not be reached. The police then initiated an investigation under the supervision of the SSP security.

Margala Police Station conduct-

ed the search. The circumstances of her disappearance were not immediately clear. However, Margala Police Station has jurisdiction over the area including the Margala Hills a popular sport for tourists

According to SSP Investigation

Hassan Jahangir Watto, the Vietnamese ambassador's wife had gone to the Mega Zone in Sector F-9 Park to swim and bowl, but had become upset with her husband and left the house.

"The ambassador's wife told the police that she was not feeling at home and had left the house. She did not realise what she was doing," Watto told the Independent Urdu.

Later, IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi called on the foreign ambassador who thanked him for the swift action.

In a statement, the interior ministry stated that Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi took notice of the disappearance of the wife of the Vietnamese ambassador and directed the Islamabad



Police to take measures for her "safe recovery".

Earlier this week, Islamabad Police had stated that Inspector General Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir

Raza, along with an investigative the Vietnamese ambassador.

Islamabad IG also briefed the safe city SSP, SSP investigation, and capital police.

SSP operations. Raza stated that team, had visited the residence of the protection of all foreign ambassadors residing in Islamabad was among the priorities of the federal

Sunday, June 2, 2024

Sindh advances Labour Law Reform with ILO support



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Government of Sindh is leading efforts to consolidate and simplify labour laws and ensure they comply with International Labour Standards through social dialogue. Geir Tonstol, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Country Director for Pakistan met with Syed Murad Ali Shah, the Chief Minister of Sindh, on Friday, 31 May 2024 to update on progress.

The ILO responded to the request for technical assistance from the Government of Sindh province in drafting a Labour Code that would help to consolidate, simplify and rationalize existing labour laws, and comply with International Labour Standards through social dialogue.

Currently, 21 labour laws address different aspects of labour relations in Sindh, creating difficulties in understanding the legal framework on labour relations and its implementation for employers, workers and other stakehold-

The Government of Sindh believes that this initiative will facilitate the understanding and implementation of the labour legislation for all parties involved. It is expected to improve the country's image in the global market, make the legal framework more transparent and clearer for foreign partners and investors, enhance enforcement, broaden coverage and strengthen the protection of workers.

Following the request of the Government of Sindh province, the ILO helped bringing all existing labour laws into a single, modern and comprehensive Labour Code that aligns with Pakistna's international obligations.

This effort was significantly advanced in Sindh on 27-31 May 2024, through the European Union-funded International Labour and Environment Standards in Small and Medium Enterprises project. During this period, the draft Labour Code was presented by the Department of Labour and Human Resource and the ILO to social partners and discussed with representatives of employers and work-

The Chief Minister of Sindh met with Geir Tonstol to discuss progress on the matter. Both the Chief Minister and Mr Tonstol highlighted the strategic importance and relevance of the Labour Code as a way to provide stronger regulatory stability to Sindh's business environment and create a good climate for investments, extending fundamental labour rights to all workers, including in the informal sector, strengthening the defence of fundamental principles at work and enhancing Pakistan's ability to comply with the international obligations of the country, including GSP+ commit-

Traders demand pragmatic steps for maintenance of law and order situation



Commerce desk

PESHAWAR: Traders on Saturday demanded of the government to take pragmatic steps for improving law and order situation. They urged provincial and federal tax departments and authorities to respect dignity during actions and enforcement of rules and regulations and

During a joint meeting of various trade bodies and associations of Peshawar held under chairmanship of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq at the Chamber House here Saturday, the business community asked the government to end issuance of illegal notices, harassment and unnecessary actions by concerned authorities. Traders want permanent solutions to border-related issues. They demanded steps to make a fully functional dry-port. The government should pay attention to developing small and medium scale business and industry, along with the mining, marble sector, they stressed. The traders asked the government to retain tax-exemption for erstwhile FATA/merged district and Provincial Administered Tribal Areas (PATA).

They placed their trust in the Businessman Forum (BF) leader and former Senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour and pledged their support to BF for the upcoming election of the SCCI.

Indonesian Envoy salutes Arif Balgamwala's philatelic contributions

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia, H. E Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat, honored prominent Pakistani businessman, recipient of Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (in and strengthening bilateral ties between Indo-Philately), M. Arif Balgamwala with a crest at

a reception held at his residence, Wisma, as part of the "Road to Trade Expo Indonesia 2024". This recognition acknowledges Balgamwala's outstanding efforts in showcasing his philatelic collection, promoting cultural appreciation,

la's exceptional collection of Indonesian stamps and his significant contributions to cultural exchange, stating that his efforts have greatly enriched Indonesian culture and strengthened General expressed his appreciation for Balgam-

2024

or All RADE

by Con

wala's achievements, noting that his outstand-

ing efforts will be recognized and awarded. This gesture of appreciation and cultural support between Indonesia and Pakistan marks a significant step forward in promoting bilatthe bonds between the two nations. The Consule eral ties and cultural exchange between the



ndone

Hardwork

RAWALPINDI: Workers engaged in excavation work during a plan at the Saddar Bank Road to un-



Minister assures trade, industry of best possible support to revive growth

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh has assured the trade and industry of his best possible support by introducing right policies and their implementation, as the private sector can play a pivotal role in driving economy in the country. He was talking to the Chairman of Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Fahimur Rehman Saigol who met him here today.

The federal minister observed that the primary objective of the government is to facilitate the new investment and stimulate the economic growth by removing unnecessary barriers and obstacles

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said that the economy is the top priority of the government and it is taking all necessary steps to revive it by overcoming challenges and facilitating the trade and industry. He said that the government has been focusing on economic growth instead of levying just taxes.

Fahimur Rehman Saigol greeted Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh on becoming the Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs and hoped the problems of the business community would be resolved. On this occasion, he also extended warm felicitation to Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on his successful re-election as



the President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). He said that successful election of Mian Nawaz Sharif as the president of the PML-N is not only a good omen for the party but it would also usher into new era of development and prosperity for the

He also said that Mian Nawaz Sharif is a seasoned and visionary political leader as the election of Nawaz Sharif is a manifes-

tation of the full confidence of the leaders and workers of the Party on his charismatic leadership skills.

He expressed his confidence that under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, the PML-N will be proactive and will lead the country to development and prosperity. He said that Mian Nawaz Sharif has always done politics based on principles and made tough decisions for the sake of the country's interests.

CCP and **PICG** Agree to Enhance Their Collaboration

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) and Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance (PICG) agree to broaden the canvas of their collaboration with inclusion of competition law modules in other PICG trainings in addition to the existing Directors Training Program (DTP).

In the meeting held between senior officials of CCP and PICG in Karachi, it was discussed that competition law provides enabling environment and level playing field to all stakeholders in the economy. It is very important for the decision makers, board members, entrepreneurs, corporate managers, officials of stateowned enterprises to have a good understanding of the Competition Law.

During the meeting, PICG officials apprised that they are launching an ESG Execthat will comprise of manda- at large. tory as well as optional the mid-career level too.

It was discussed that existing collaboration between CCP and PICG will further expand and CCP will assist PICG in developing modules and will also Haani Jamal Khan.

provide resource persons to impart the trainings on modules pertaining to deterring deceptive marketing, process of reviewing mergers & acquisitions, the criteria for granting exemptions, and agreements that are prohibited under the completion

The CCP and PICG officials appreciated that awareness on Competition Law has largely increased by inclusion of modules in DTPs and will further amplify through ESG programme. Meeting also discussed that case study based modules will be incorporated in upcoming DTPs and other PICG trainings on Competition Law.

It was highlighted that CCP is committed to foster competition in all sphere of economic activities and is working closely with stakeholders like PICG, to create the awareness on competition law which will translate into benefits for the utive Track Programme soon undertakings and economy

modules. This programme from CCP by Salman Amin, is globally acknowledged Member, Ahmed Qadir, DG, to enhance knowledge and and Raja Taimur, Deputy capacities of participants at Director. Whereas, PICG was represented by its President, Mr. Mehmosh Khawaja, Company Secretary, Ms Shafaq Fauzil Azim, and Manager Marketing and Director Relations, Ms

Gold rates go down in Pakistan

S Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,400 and was sold at Rs.240,300 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs.241,700 on last trading day, ARY News reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,200 to Rs.206,019 from Rs.207,219 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.188,850 from Rs189,950, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs.80 to 2,820 whereas that of ten gram silver went down by Rs.68.58 to Rs.2,417.70. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$16 to \$2,326 from \$ 2,342, the Association reported.

These movements are closely linked to changes in the value of the US Dollar, indicating the close relationship between currency values and gold prices. This underscores the impact of global economic factors on local gold markets.

Atif Ikram urged govt to announce a new industrial zone in Islamabad

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD, JUN 01 (APP): Chairman of the Capital Area of Pakistan Business Forum (PBF), Atif Ikram Sheikh has urged the federal government to officially announce a new industrial zone in Islamabad to promote industrial sector and attract investment. Addressing the members of Islamabad Industrial Association Chairman said that a massive ratio of on Saturday, Atif Ikram who is also President FPCCI, said Islamabad ment Authority (CDA) and Metropolhas seen fast expansion during the itan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) last 15 years, and the existing industrial area has no more space to set up industrialists in the capital city. He said new industrial units. As per Master the new industrial zone will not only Plan of Islamabad, the industrial area of sectors I-9 and I-10 have

with no adequate space available for establishment of additional industrial units," he pointed out.

Ikram said that industrial estate played a pivotal role in bringing prosperity to a larger extent with poverty reduction through creating plenty of job opportunities. Urging the government to give due consideration to this important issue, the PBF taxes on part of the Capital Develophad multiplied the problems of local promote industrial base but also bring multiple benefits to the economy as come almost in the middle of the city it would create new job opportuni-

ties, enhance tax revenue and boost exports. Atif Ikram mentioned that a few years back, with joint efforts of CDA and ICCI, Sector I-17 was earmarked for the purpose of industrial estate, and land acquisition process had also started, but later, the CDA changed the Master Plan for Islamabad and redesignated Sector I-17 from industrial use to institutional

The government has identified a piece of private land near Rawat Industrial Estate to establish a new industrial zone in the vicinities of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT); however, there are some other options under consideration. A large number of potential investors are willing to set up industries in Islamabad, he added.



He further said that industrialisation was a key element of Pakistan's bright economic future, a gateway to northern areas, and also the main artery towards China, which could prove a potential economic hub in coming years to boost trade and industri-

al activities in the region. He also demanded the government to revisit on the policy rate to support new industrialization 22 percent central bank's interest in Pakistan was highest in the whole Asia compared to interest rate in Japan is 0.1 percent, Taiwan 1.88 percent, Thailand 2.25, Malaysia 3 percent, China was 3.4 percent, Vietnam 4.5 percent, and Indonesia and Hongkong 5.75 percent, Bangladesh and India 6.5 percent. Currently high interest rate has made our industry uncompetitive in the national market due to which our exports are also suffering. The best way to revive the economy is to focus on exportled growth of the economy for which single digit interest rate is the key requirement; he added.

Riding Towards Wellness

Turkmenistan Embassy & Serena Hotels Mark World Bicycle Day with Healthy Initiative.

Day, the Turkmenistan Embassy and Serena Hotels organized a cycling event to promote a healthy, eco-friendly lifestyle under the Sports Diplomacy initiative. The event highlighted the commitment to encourage an active lifestyle and environmental sustainability. Participants gathered at D-Chowk, where they were greeted with a lively atmosphere filled with excitement and solidarity. Along the way, participants experienced the scenic beauty of Islamabad while engaging in a healthy activity. The event was attended by the diplomatic community, corporate and media personnel and Serena Hotel's

Mr. Ahmed Naseem Warraich, Additional Foreign Secretary (Afg. & West Asia) was the chief guest of the event, who highlighted the significance of cycling in fostering a healthy lifestyle, decreasing reliance on fossil fuels, and reducing noise pollution by minimizing road traffic.

He also advised for a transition to sustainable transportation choices and urged for the hosting of additional events to champion cycling as a viable and efficient means of travel.

H. E. Mr. Atadian Movlamovin. the event, stating, "we are delighted only a fantastic way to stay fit, but it inspires more people to take up cycling





the Ambassador of Turkmenistan to to celebrate World Bicycle Day with also contributes to a cleaner and green-Pakistan, expressed his enthusiasm for this wonderful event. Cycling is not er environment. We hope this event



Serena Hotels, beyond its environmental efforts, is deeply committed a culture of health and fitness among to supporting sports initiatives that contribute to community well-being

and development. By sponsoring and

hosting sports events, Serena Hotels

showcase their talent and promotes guests and employees alike.

One such initiative is the World Bicycle Day, an annual event that brings together cycling enthusiasts to economies and ecosystems.

and make it a part of their daily lives". provides a platform for athletes to explore scenic routes while promoting eco-tourism and adventure sports. By organizing events like these, Serena Hotels not only promotes a love for sports but also encourages responsible tourism practices that benefit local

Punjab wins Inter Provincial Women's Softball C'ship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Punjab won the first PNSC Inter Provincial Women's Softball Championship, beating Balochistan in the final at the KPT Sports Complex.

After a thrilled competition, Balochistan faced defeat in the third innings by 14-13.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh who was the chief guest at the closing ceremony along with Asif Azeem, President of Softball Feder-

Chairperson ball Federation of Paki- Major (R) Mahmood Riaz, stan, Yasmin Haider, Chief Syed Waseem Hashmi and



Syed Jarrar Haider Kazmi, the occasion. ation of Pakistan, and Chair- Vice President Tehmina

Finance Officer PNSC others were also present on

The minister was man KPT Syed Syedain Raza Asif, GM Combaxx Sports impressed with the game from Balochistan, Nida, Zaidi distributed trophies Zubair Macha, Director of softball, Players from all and medals to the players of Marketing Palmolive Fatima over Pakistan played well in scored two runs each while the winning and runners-up Siddiqui, Assistant Manag- the event. We will continue Zehra, Kaka, Nargis and teams, said a press release. er Admin PNSC Ayesha to cooperate with Softball Samia scored one run each. Soft- Leena, Manager Sports KPT Federation of Pakistan in Sindh was given the Fair Play international softball events,

President Softball Federation of Pakistan Asif Azeem thanked the sponsors for supporting the event. Chairperson, Yasmin Haider praised the participating teams in the championship.

Earlier in the final, Punjab defeated Balochistan by 14-13 in the third innings. Iram and Hourina from Punjab scored three runs each, Fiza, Kiran and Mehek scored two runs each while Noor and Fahmida scored one run each.

Nayab scored three runs Mubashira and Farzana the future to participate in Trophy in the closing cere-

Kashif Farhan honor with Best Regional Sports Officer Award



Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Regional Sports Officer Peshawar Kashif Farhan was awarded the Best Regional Sports Officer award based on his outstanding performance in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa U-23 Inter-Regional Games wherein Peshawar clinched the overall trophy.

He received his award in a closing cerenony of the U-23 Games held at the Pesha war Sports Complex in which Chief Minister's Advisor on Sports Syed Fakhar Jahan was the chief guest.

Secretary Sports Matiullah and DG Sports Abdul Nasir were also present on the

Ambassador Amna Baloch attends "Suqovushan Mini-Football Tournament



👺 Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Brussels hosted the SUQOVUSHAN Mini-Football Tournament to celebrate Azerbaijan's Republic Day. H. E. Amna Baloch, Ambassador of Pakistan to the EU, Belgium, and Luxembourg, attended the event as the Guest of Honor.

Ambassador Baloch was warmly received by H. E. Mr. Vaqif Sadiqov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the EU. In her address, she congratulated the government and people of Azerbaijan, emphasizing their significant achieve ments, cultural heritage, and resilience.

Ambassador Baloch highlighted the strong bilateral relationship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, founded on the principles of mutual respect and shared values. She commended the tournament for fostering unity and camaraderie, and for strengthening the bonds between the two nations through sports diplomacy.

In conclusion, Ambassador Baloch wished all participating teams success, expressing hope for continued friendship and unity. She ended with, "Pakistan - Azerbaijan Dosti Zindabad." Team Pakistan, comprising officers and officials of the Pakistan Embassy in Brussels, also participated in the tournament.

Wapda, PAF in Memorial Basketball Tournament final

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Wapda would face Pakistan Air Force (PAF) in the final of All Pakistan Muhammad Majid and Abdul Nasir Memorial Basketball Tournament at Siddique Memon Sports

Complex Karachi. Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) Secretary General Khalid Bashir was the chief guest in the semifinal while PBBF associate secretary Yaqoob Qadry and others also witnessed

Wapda continued their good show in the tournament and beat Islamabad in the first semifinal by 80-51. Wapda ace player Kaleemullah again led the winning side by scoring 17 points along with Muhammad Israr scored 12 points, while Ali Kazmi and Jibran Asif scored 14 and 12 points for Islamabad respectively.

In the second semifinal, Pakistan Air Force trounced Punjab Rangers by 86-57 points to set the final clash against Wapda. PAF also maintained their dominance in the championship and comfortably won the crucial match. Umair Jan and Mehtab Akram were the top players for PAF with 18, 18 points respec-

Pak volleyball team reach Bahrain for AVC Challenge Cup

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Volleyball team landed in Bahrain on Saturday to feature in the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Challenge Cup 2024.

According to Chairman Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqoob, after back to back winning performances in the Central Asian Volleyball League and series against Australia, Pakistan team was now set to participate in the mega event of AVC Challenge cup which starting June 2 (Sunday).

"We retained the winning squad of Central Asian Volleyball League after consultation of head coach Ruben Wolochin from Argentina," said Yaqoob, adding that the national squad played excellent volleyball and we were expecting top notch performance in AVC Challenge Cup.

The team was ready to showcase their



skills and sportsmanship in the upcoming event, representing the country with pride and determination as twelve teams were competing in AVC Challenge Cup where Pakistan, Kazakhstan and Thailand would fight in pool B matches, said PVF chairman.

Yaqoob said we had good experience

at two recent events for the preparations of AVC Challenge Cup. I am very much hopeful that Pakistan team will return home with good results, he said.

Pakistan would play its first group match against Kazakhstan on June (Monday). The quarterfinal round would Volleyball team as Assistant Scoutman.

be held on June 6 while the semifinal and final of the challenge cup will be played on June 8 and June 9, respectively.

Murad Jehan would lead green-shirts in the AVC challenge cup along with Muhammad Kasheef Naveed appointed as Vice-Captain while Waleed Khan, Murad Khan, Aimal Khan, Usman Faryad Ali, Fakhar Ud Din, Afaq Khan, Abdul Zaheer, Musawer Khan, Muhammad Hamad, Ali Haider, Nasir Ali and Muhammad Yaseen will be part of 14-member Pakistan squad.

Argentine Ruben Wolochin would be the head coach of the team. Saeed Ahmed Khan Sady and Ehsan Iqbal were named assistant coaches along with the squad. Brazilian Lucas Rodrigues, would be with the team as physical trainer, while Muhammad Ismail Khan, Muhammad Sulaiman Amin and Juan Cobucci, Scout-2 (Sunday) and Thailand on June 3 man from Argentina will join the Pakistan

Cricket in uncharted territory as T20 World Cup starts in Texas

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Cricket ventures into uncharted territory on Saturday as the first-ever major tournament to be staged in the United States gets under way in Texas with the opening game of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup

A month-long festival of the fastest and most explosive form of the sport — which is being shared between venues in Texas, Florida, New York and the Caribbean — begins with the US taking on Canada at the Grand Prairie Stadium on the outskirts of Dallas on Saturday.

It marks the opening skir-

International Cricket Council (ICC) event to be held in part in the United States.

While the bulk of the tournament will be played out in the Caribbean, 16 group stage games in the 20-team tournament will be played on American soil, including the highlight of the group stage — a clash

between India and Pakistan. That match is due to be played at a 34,000-capacity temporary venue in Long Island, New York on June 9.

The rest of the tournament will be held in the West Indies, including the Super Eight stage, the semi-finals and the final, which will be played at Kensmish of the first ever major ington Oval in Bridgetown,

While cricket is widely played at a recreational level in the United States, with strong presences in all three of the states that have been chosen for games, organisers are realistic about the chances of "converting" mainstream American sports fans.

USA batsman Aaron Jones said the hosts are aiming to impress American fans both on and off the field.

"Obviously what you do on the field is very important," Jones said. "We want to get a lot more support from the American born-and-raised people.

"I think we could only do that by playing good on the field and

fans or the growing fans off the field as well.

The ICC also sees the tournament as a launch pad towards the sport's return to the Olympics for Los Angeles 2028, when the T20 format will be used.

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Major League Cricket, a T20 tournament, was launched last year and also stands to benefit from any growth in interest in the big-hitting, spectacular shortest form.

But it is not only the American market that the ICC is focused upon — the expansion of the tournament has opened up opportunities for newer

obviously interacting with the cricket nations to compete on the big stage.

In recent years, the sport has been able to expand outside of its traditional strongholds with Ireland and Afghanistan earning places in the 12-strong elite with full Test status.

But the ICC see the T20 format as the perfect vehicle for growing the game and this year's edition will feature three T20 World Cup debutants in the USA, Canada and Uganda.

Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Oman are among the other nations who are relatively new to the big stage and who will be looking to make their mark and grab some attention with an upset win.

With the teams drawn in four experience. groups of five teams, with just the top two advancing, none of the smaller nations are expected to progress beyond the group

pool stage could mainly be a

reeding out' process India, winners of the first edition in 2007, are the favourites, with their lineup packed with players from the annual

Indian Premier League. Australia, winners of the ODI World Cup last year along with the World Test Championship, opted to leave out their veteran batsman Steve Smith but big-hitting David Warner and pacemen Mitchell Starc and

Other possible contenders include defending champions England, who will be without the star of their 2022 triumph stage and there is a danger the Ben Stokes, who is managing his fitness after a knee operation. England warmed up for the tournament with a seven-wicket rout of Pakistan in London on Thursday

> tournament in 2012 and 2016 and are hoping that they can benefit from familiarity with the surfaces in the region.

Co-hosts West Indies won the

South Africa, New Zealand and Pakistan will all fancy their chances of making an impact in a tournament which always Pat Cummins provide plenty of produces surprises.

The Spokesman

Israeli Brutality

Smoke rises from an Israeli airstrike in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip on May 31, 2024. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed



Israel pounds Gaza after Biden outlines ceasefire plan

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES: Israeli forces hammered Rafah in southern Gaza with tanks and artillery Saturday, hours after US President Joe Biden said Israel was offering a new roadmap toward

announcement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted his country would still pursue the war until it had reached all its aims, including the destruction of Hamas.

Netanyahu on Saturday yahu added. insisted on Hamas's destruction as part of an Israeli plan on Saturday urged Netanya-Riden to end the Gaza war

the war have not changed: the destruction of Hamas's military and governing capabilities, the freeing of all hostages and

agree to a permanent ceasefire before these conditions are fulfilled is a non-starter," Netan-

Israel's opposition leader laid out by Biden. Biden's call for a Gaza truce

"Israel's conditions for ending under which Hamas would free Israel's three-stage offer would hostages, and offered to support the government should far-right coalition partners bolt.

"The government of Israel ensuring that Gaza no longer cannot ignore President Biden's

Smotrich leave the government."

The Palestinian militant

presented by US President Joe hu to heed US President Joe outlining a possible end to the time for this war to end, for

begin with a six-week phase that would see Israeli forces with-Cameron. draw from all populated areas Hamas in a statement on

It would also see the "release

Israel and the Palestinians ing ceasefire — but the truce would continue while the talks

conflict, the US president said the day after to begin," he said

in comments echoed by British Foreign Secretary David

Friday evening said it "considers positively" Biden's speech regarding "a permanent ceasefire, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, reconstruction and the exchange of pris-

UN chief Antonio Guterres "strongly hopes" the latest development "will lead to an agreement by the parties for lasting peace," his spokesman Stephane

consequential speech. There is a poses a threat to Israel," the of a number of hostages, includ-Israeli leader said in a statement. deal on the table and it should ing women, the elderly, the "Under the proposal, Isramade," Yair Lapid said in an X wounded, in exchange for (the) el will continue to insist these release of hundreds of Palestina full ceasefire. Shortly after Biden's "I remind Netanyahu that conditions are met before a ian prisoners. oners. permanent ceasefire is put in he has a safety net from us for a hostage-release deal if would then negotiate during "The notion that Israel will (Itamar) Ben-Gvir and (Bezalel) those six weeks for a last-

group, meanwhile, said it remained underway, Biden 'considers positively" the plan said. In his first major address to accept the Israeli offer. "It's

The US leader urged Hamas

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called his counterparts from Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye on Friday to press the

Planning Minister visits Chengdu High Tech Development Zone

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Igbal visited Chengdu city in Sichuan, China and had a comprehensive tour of the Chengdu High Tech Development Zone (CDHT).

According to press release issued by Planning Commission here Saturday, the minister also met with Chengdu based entrepreneurs, and businessmen, interested in becoming part of Phase-II of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and members of the Pakistani diaspora.

During Minister's tour of CDHT, he was briefed by Chengdu Municipal leaders, and zonal officials, on the High Tech Development Zone's history, develop- both domestic and foreign investment, ment profile, special policies to attract and pillar industries.

devotion, effective

welfare staff

👺 City Desk

Minister Salik emphasises

communication for Hajj



The CDHT, established in 1988, is

in China, In 2023, the CDHT realized a zonal GDP of over US\$ 43 billion. Covering an area of 237 sqkm, the zone includes a financial district, biotechnology city, and a science and technology park, employing more than 750,000 people, and registering over 4300 enter-

The minister thanked the local officials for their briefing and invited them to participate in Pakistan's development, especially vis-à-vis CPEC Phase-II, and to develop technology parks in Pakistan, sharing their valuable experiences and

expertise. The minister also invited relevant experts to visit Pakistan, and engage with authorities and businesses, so that meaningful cooperation could take place. This was greeted positively by both one of the first national high-tech zones the Municipal leaders and zonal officials.

Controlling inflation, provision of employment opportunities govt's top priorities: Masadik Malik

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs

and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Saturday urged the Hajj welfare staff (Moavineen-e-Hujjaj) to perform their responsibilities with devotion as serving the pilgrims is a sacred duty.

He said this on the occasion of orientation sessions held by the Hajj mission for supporting staff in Makkah to make them aware of assisting pilgrims during the Hajj days.

Emphasising the need for effective communication, the minister suggested that guides fluent in various Pakistani languages should be deployed to assist pilgrims visiting the Haram Sharif for Umrah or prayers. "This move would enhance the experience of pilgrims and help them navigate the area with comfort, given Pakistan's multicultural nature with language diversity," he added. He urged the supporting staff to ensure that the pilgrims should be provided with the best possible facilities and services during their stay for Hajj, showing compassion and empathy towards them in addition to their duties.

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Petroleum Division Dr Masadik Masood Malik on Saturday said that controlling inflation and providing employment opportunities to the people were the government's top priorities. Addressing a press conference here, he said on the directives of the prime minister, maximum relief was being ensured to the masses and inflation witnessed a gradually decrease in the country. The premier has given targets to all the ministers to serve the people and reduce their burden by controlling inflation and creating job opportunities for them, he

He said factors like floods and natural calamities besides also been slashed and around Rs tricity at affordable rates.



Russian-Ukrainian and Middle East conflicts caused an increase commodity cycle. However, owing to the efforts of the incumbent government and targets given by the Prime Minister, the ratio of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has decreased from 37 per cent to 17 per cent, he said. Similarly, the food inflation has also reduced from 40 per cent to 11.5 per cent adding that we were going towards stability.

25-26 per litre relief on petrol was given to the people in one month, he added. He expressed the hope that inflation would further witness a down trend in the days ahead. Tractors' purchases have also registered a 50 per cent increase while urea production recorded a 17 per cent jump in the last one year, he added. The minister said the government would give a balanced and relief-oriented budget with an increase in 30 per cent increase in tax collection. The country's exports also witnessed an increase while imports have decreased, he said. He said more incentives would be given to small business and IT sectors in the budget. To a question, he said the PML-N government set Prices of petroleum products have up power plants to generate elec-

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Deputy PM commends IG Islamabad for rescuing wife of Vietnamese ambassador

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday held a telephonic conversation with Inspector General (IG) of Islamabad Police, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, to congratulate him and his team for their prompt efforts in rescuing the wife of the Vietnamese

ambassador. The IG and his team utilized modern technology to swiftly resolve the issue, ensuring the safe recovery of the diplomat's spouse, Ishaq Dar said.



Appreciating the efficient handling of continue providing swift solutions the situation, he directed the IG to to any future diplomatic concerns.

Afghan consul agrees over joint efforts to solve problems faced in Pak-Afghan mutual trade



跨 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Consul General of the Afghan Consulate Peshawar, Hafiz Mohibullah Shakir has agreed to make joint efforts to solve the problems faced in Pak-Afghan mutual and transit trade to remove the obstacles.

The agreement by the Afghan envoy came during a meeting held at the Afghan Consulate with busibetween the two countries and gave nessmen dealing in Pak-Afghan various suggestions.

trade, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

Coordinator Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, former senior vice president of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Engineer Manzoor Elahi, Director Transport Afghan Consulate Syed Muhammad Faiz, Former Deputy Commercial Attache, Dr Hameed Fazil Khel and Protocol Officer Shahidullah Zaheer were also present on the

President of Frontier Customs Agents Association (FCAA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Zia-ul-Haq Shardi spoke on the occasion and apprised participants of the meeting about different issues faced by the business community, traders, industrialists, exporters, transporters including restoration of Afghan document Ilam-o-Khabar, establishment of liaison committee

PTI demands CJP Faez Isa to distance himself from cases related to party

跨 City desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) core committee has issued a statement gation Agency's (FIA) investigation into a social media post by PTI Chairman Imran Khan and rejecting any potential new case based on Is a recuse himself from cases relat-

ed to Khan and the party. The statement, issued after a crucial meeting of the core committee on Friday, asserted that the FIA investigation and any Hamoodur Rehman Commission responsibilities.

Report, highlighting its significance in understanding the challenges facing Pakistan.

The committee called for the immediate release of the Hamoocondemning the Federal Investi- dur Rehman Commission Report to the public, emphasizing the need to learn from history and inform the public about the realities of the situation. In light of the FIA it. The committee also demanded notices issued, the committee has Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez entrusted its legal team to develop a comprehensive legal strategy regarding the documentary.

The statement reiterated the PTI's commitment to upholding the Constitution and rule of law in all political matters. It also potential new case were unjusti- emphasized the importance of fied. The committee reviewed the the armed forces remaining withsocial media release of a documen- in their constitutional boundaries tary based on the findings of the and fulfilling their national defense

Parliament determined ...

Continued from Page 1 to reporters and journalists.

making CPNE a proactive organisation, dedicated to protecting and and media are dovetailed to further

While acknowledging the role of print media, he said that "Parliament ensuring the provision of basic rights the cause of democracy".

KP governor appreciates people...

Continued from Page 1

the fascinating scene of love and devotion of the people showing their love to motherland, dedication to the guards of the country's

He said our people's vision is exemplary who always salute the courage and bravery of the security forces. Faisal Karim Kundi said that our country is our identity, adding may Allah almighty keep its glory, honor and dignity forever.

NEPRA determines...

Continued from Page 1 months of July and August. He said

August, he said in a statement issued here Saturday by the ministry.

The minister said that Rs 4.65 per unit quarterly adjustment would be collected in June which would reduce to 93 paisa in billing

the regulator had approved Rs 2.75 per unit adjustment for 2nd quarter which was being recovered in billing months of April, May and June. He said NEPRA determined quarterly tariff for DISCOs which was recovered in next three months.